



Environmental Cleanup Program

A Safe Return for Beale RAB Co-Chair Lt Col Larry Harris

The Beale AFB Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is pleased to welcome back Lieutenant Colonel Larry R. Harris as its co-chair. Lt Col Harris was recently deployed to Cuba. After a safe return home from his overseas deployment, he enjoyed some R&R with family and friends before returning to his duties at Beale AFB as the Base Civil Engineer. The RAB looks forward to Lt Col Harris's continued support in his role as co-chair.



Beale AFB RAB Co-Chair
Lt Col Harris

The RAB also sincerely thanks Major Brian George for filling in for Lt Col Harris as acting RAB co-chair and Base Civil Engineer for the past several months. Maj George has attended the RAB meetings and bus tours during this time, and was always prepared with answers when RAB members had questions. At the July RAB meeting, he delivered a presentation about the 9 CES Main Building Fire this past January. Maj George offered details about the structure of the building, chronology of the fire and succeeding events, response time, and environmental considerations. Maj George's pride in Beale AFB and the surrounding communities (Olivehurst, Loma Rica, Smartsville, Marysville, Linda, Yuba City, Penn-Valley, and Wheatland) was evident as he discussed the mutual aid each has provided for this and other incidents, and the quarterly exercises that the firefighters participate in together. He expressed his concern for the Civil Engineering personnel displaced as a result of the fire and underscored the Air Force's



Beale AFB RAB Acting Co-Chair
Maj Brian George

commitment to ensuring that staff have a safe and secure work space. The RAB members thoroughly enjoyed his presentation and his enthusiasm.

Site SD032: Coordinating Field Work on the Flightline

The 2013 field season at Beale Air Force Base (AFB) has been a busy one and will be drawing to a close early this fall. Areas in need of investigation still exist at several sites across the Base; therefore, collection of additional field data are necessary before deciding whether the sites can be closed, or whether additional remedial actions are required. One particularly interesting site with field work remaining in the 2013 season is Site SD032, which includes facilities used for aircraft maintenance and repair, and also housed the Titan Missile Project. This site is located along the flightline, which requires additional permission and coordination beyond what is typically required for field sampling.

Additional field data needed at this site include soil vapor samples collected from existing vapor monitoring wells and from proposed soil borings to determine whether current volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations in soil vapor exceed project screening levels used to make remedial decisions. Most of the sampling locations were selected to evaluate or confirm areas where previous sampling results were elevated; however, two borings are being drilled adjacent to areas that have not been previously investigated. If the new soil vapor data exceed project screening levels, additional samples may be collected to aid in the delineation. These samples could include indoor air or subsurface samples from Building 1076. The purpose of collecting indoor air and/or subsurface samples is to get a more realistic estimate of concentrations within potentially affected buildings.

If all concentrations in soil vapor samples collected below the soil surface are below the project screening levels for this site, then the site will be recommended for closure under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) program. If concentrations of one or more VOC constituents exceed project screening levels, then additional samples may be required.

The field work proposed for Site SD032, like other sites where field work has been conducted this summer (Sites ST021 and ST022), requires additional coordination in order to drill borings and collect samples because of its proximity to the flightline. One of the proposed sampling

locations at Site SD032 is on the flightline tarmac, within the parking apron. A flightline waiver is necessary to conduct this type of field work. To obtain the required flightline waiver, CH2M HILL personnel attended meetings with Beale AFB flightline staff to discuss the details of the work to be performed and the equipment (e.g., drill rigs) to be used. Base personnel prepare a package for approval, and a waiver is then issued. The waiver requires that personnel conducting field work on the flightline obtain a flightline driver's license before commencing work.



Field work at Site SD032, along the Beale AFB flightline, requires additional coordination with Beale AFB personnel to ensure the safety of personnel and aircraft.

Once mobilized for the actual field event, a day of sampling on the flightline involves more than a typical field sampling day at unrestricted sites. CH2M HILL and subcontractor personnel are required to attend a 1-hour flightline driving training and safety meeting with Tower personnel and the Base Operations Manager on the first day of field work, and are required to check in with Base Operations at the beginning of every work day thereafter. During check-in, a communication radio is issued to the flightline field work crew. After proceeding through the security gate, all vehicles must go through a Foreign Object Debris (FOD) check on the tires before driving on the taxiways. The FOD check involves inspecting the tires of all vehicles entering a hard surface from a soft surface and removing any rock chips or stones to ensure that debris are not deposited onto the taxiway or runway. This check prevents potential hazard to the aircrafts. The same procedure must be followed when entering the taxiway from the site at the end of each day's work.

If work is to be conducted within the restricted area and behind the red line, such as at Area of Concern (AOC) 39 where sampling was conducted earlier this summer, a specially trained security escort must accompany the sampling team at all times. At the conclusion of each work day, sampling staff must check out with the flightline tower personnel and return the communications radio. All drill rigs and vehicles must be moved out of the flightline area at the end of each day's work for overnight staging.

No photographs are to be taken while working at flightline sites. Additionally, while crossing specified taxiways, proper observation is required to avoid coming into contact with aircraft and other flightline vehicles. Flightline area security also reserves the right to check any personnel driving in the flightline area for the appropriate flightline driver's license.

Although additional time and effort are required to coordinate and conduct flightline work, the added precautions help ensure the safety of personnel and aircraft, while at the same time supporting the Base mission and safeguarding the environment.

Military Munitions Response Program: Interim Removal Action for Contaminated Soil

A Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) interim removal action (IRA) for lead-contaminated soil from six small arms range (SAR) munitions response sites (MRSs) and lead- and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH)-contaminated soil from one SAR MRS is ongoing at Beale AFB. The MMRP IRA field activities are scheduled from July through October 2013.

The IRA activities include pre-construction biological surveys, waste characterization sampling, treatment of lead-contaminated soil (as necessary), excavation and offsite disposal of lead- and PAH-contaminated soil above the IRA project cleanup levels, and site restoration.

A hand-held X-ray fluorescence (XRF) unit will be used as a field screening tool to determine whether the lead cleanup levels have been achieved. Once XRF field screening results are below cleanup levels, samples will be collected and sent to an offsite laboratory for analysis to confirm results for lead. PAH confirmation samples will be sent for offsite laboratory analysis once visual evidence of clay target debris has been removed. If laboratory results for lead or PAH exceed the project cleanup levels, additional soil will be removed until results are below cleanup levels.

When confirmation sample results are below the cleanup levels for lead and PAHs for all areas and approval has been obtained, the MRSs will be restored by backfilling

with clean soil and grading and seeding to establish native grasses approved for Beale AFB.

Following completion of site restoration, a report will be prepared to include:

- A summary of the field activities for each MRS
- Confirmation sampling and evaluation of analytical results
- Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol ratings to prioritize the MRSs if future actions are appropriate
- Recommendations for further munitions response actions or closure under the Air Force MMRP



PV Cement from 3,000-pound super sacks is distributed over a high lead concentration area of a former small arms range munitions response site excavation area before being tilled into the soil.



PV Cement amendment is tilled into the soil to reduce the lead toxicity of the soil for disposal at an authorized facility. The PV Cement binds with and helps stabilize the lead.

Focus on the Agency – Department of Toxic Substances Control, Public Participation

The last RAB newsletter series focused on the role of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and its mission, vision, and organization, as well as the site cleanup program. As a continuation of this regulatory agency highlight, this month's newsletter focuses on the public participation side of DTSC. The following presents the agency's philosophy of working with the community and the objectives of its community relations program, as well as how Beale AFB's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) and MMRP are addressed by Beale's community relations activities and efforts.

DTSC's public participation specialist, Veronica Lopez-Villaseñor, has been busy the past 3 years working on Beale AFB's community relations program – supporting RAB meetings, helping with the Base's Community Relations Plan updates, translating fact sheets and public notices into Spanish, and working with offbase residents. Ms. Lopez-Villaseñor supports Terry Escarda, DTSC's project manager, who works in the Federal Facilities Unit representing DTSC in hazardous waste cleanups at operating military bases such as Beale AFB.



Veronica Lopez-Villaseñor, DTSC Public Participation Specialist

DTSC's Community Relations Philosophy and Objectives

DTSC managers and staff members believe the best decisions are made with a fully informed and involved public. DTSC's approach is distinctive in that it involves the affected or interested communities on the community's terms. Outreach is as informal as possible, conducted at times and locations that are convenient to the community, and in appropriate languages. DTSC uses information that is understandable and accessible to the public. Also, the DTSC process emphasizes early and continuing public involvement throughout the process. Accountability is also important. DTSC staff and managers regularly participate in outreach efforts to ensure there is an understanding of community issues at all levels of the department.

During the past several years, DTSC has been a leader in implementing environmental justice¹ principles at the project level, conducting project-specific community assessments to determine the information needs. These assessments typically result in DTSC providing translation and interpretation services, placing information in publications that address the different cultures within a community, and providing outreach at times and places that fit the cultural makeup of the community.

DTSC's Public Participation Role at Beale AFB

Community outreach and participation are essential components of Beale AFB's cleanup efforts. The community relations program for Beale AFB seeks to continue and strengthen communication between Beale AFB and the residents of Marysville, Yuba City, and Yuba and Sutter Counties. The program's purpose is to address specific community concerns identified during community relations activities related specifically to the ERP and MMRP and to guide Beale AFB in conducting these community relations activities in a timely manner. The DTSC is responsible for overseeing and approving community relations activities carried out at Beale AFB.

The overall objectives of Beale AFB's community relations program are as follows:

- Maintain open lines of communication and build on the relationships established with the community.
- Address specific community concerns and suggestions for improvement identified during interviews, written surveys, and outreach activities.
- Continue to support the community with an award-winning level of service through the community relations program.

Environmental Restoration and Military Munitions Response Program Summary

Beale AFB is an active installation in the Air Combat Command of the United States Air Force. Environmental restoration and munitions response activities at Beale AFB are part of larger U.S. Department of Defense environmental programs: the ERP and MMRP. ERP and MMRP activities are primarily governed by CERCLA, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986 (SARA).

The ERP and MMRP are designed to identify, confirm, and clean up problems arising from past environmental and military munitions practices and activities that have ultimately impacted the environment. Progress under the ERP and MMRP is closely coordinated with various California regulatory agencies, including the California Environmental Protection Agency, which is represented by the DTSC and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Beale AFB makes every effort to consider and incorporate regulatory input in all Base investigation and cleanup activities. Agreements with, and enforcement action orders from, these agencies can significantly affect the ERP, MMRP, and related activities.

Interaction and communication between Base personnel and the California regulatory agencies have been ongoing since the inception of the ERP and MMRP. All parties involved work closely together to plan and monitor progress of the ERP and MMRP. Program status meetings with core personnel are held on a regular basis to scope new work, resolve technical conflicts, discuss recommendations for closure, determine requirements for regulatory closure approval, forestall miscommunication, and avoid unnecessary delays in ERP and MMRP activity.

The Base also makes every effort to consider and incorporate public comments in its cleanup activities. A community relations program, designed to promote community involvement and awareness of the ERP and MMRP, is part of the cleanup program and part of the CERCLA process.

Community Relations Program Summary

Beale AFB has built a program for proactive community relations and involvement. The community relations program is intended to develop and document methods for sharing knowledge, obtaining community input, and encouraging community participation related to the ERP and MMRP at Beale AFB. The community relations program builds on community outreach activities used in the past and incorporates suggestions and comments from periodic community interviews concerning Air Force and community interaction. The program integrates community relations at each stage of investigation and remediation within the ERP and MMRP.

¹Environmental justice is defined in California law as "the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." DTSC defines environmental justice as "equal application of environmental protection for all communities and citizens without regard to race, national origin, or income."

Beale AFB has an established RAB, which is a forum for partnership and the exchange of information among residents, the Base, and regulatory agencies. The RAB offers an opportunity for the community to provide input on the cleanup process. The goal of an active RAB is to improve the cleanup program by increasing community understanding and support for cleanup efforts, improving the soundness of government decisions, and ensuring that community needs are considered during cleanup actions.

Beale AFB works with the RAB and the general public through meetings and tours, communicates progress to the RAB and public through newsletters, and works directly with residents near the Base boundary through personal letters, phone calls, and home visits.

Community Involvement Activities

A broad array of efforts is essential for maintaining and increasing public awareness and ensuring there is effective community participation in cleanup decisions. For this reason, numerous community relations activities are a part of the comprehensive Beale AFB community relations program. Most activities have been a part of the program since its inception and are summarized below:

- **Proactive RAB** – The RAB requested continued efforts to conduct five meetings, produce four newsletters, and lead two Base tours per year, plus outreach events.
- **Bus Tour Highlights** – The Beale AFB bus tours show the public active remediation, construction, and restoration at innovative ERP sites. Bus tours of the ERP sites were also expanded to include an Air Force mission-focused presentation to show the partnership and coordination demonstrated by program stakeholders to clean up Beale AFB while supporting and accommodating the Base mission. One bus tour showed the RAB active vernal pools, vernal pool research, and associated wildlife.
- **Public Outreach** – Booths at local fairs, ball games, and other community outreach events, with RAB participation, presented program achievements and RAB activities and promoted discussions with the public. Thirty-minute presentations about the RAB, ERP, and MMRP were given to six local service organizations (e.g., SIRs and Lions). A retired military organization was also given a tour of innovative groundwater restoration on Base.

- **MMRP Outreach** – The presence of MMRP sites near Base housing has prompted proactive efforts to conduct safety presentations at local grammar schools. More than 425 local grammar school students have received unexploded ordnance (UXO) safety briefings, UXO awareness training, and safety materials (e.g., UXO safety poster and magnets), resulting in safer kids and educated parents (e.g., residents received a 9 CES/CC safety letter). Explosive Ordnance Disposal military personnel have been involved in the school presentation efforts, and periodic programs are conducted for new students. The safety materials are also provided at all RAB outreach events. MMRP presentations are given at RAB meetings to explain current activities to the community.
- **Beale AFB ERP Recognized as a Model Program** – Beale AFB's ERP has received California State recognition as a model program for 3 years in a row from DTSC Public Participation Specialist Veronica Lopez-Villaseñor. In 2011, the Beale AFB's Restoration Program Manager, RAB members, and contractor were selected and featured in a DTSC training video filmed on Base and at a RAB meeting. The training video will be used to educate DTSC staff about successful ERP partnerships and high performing RABs.

If you have questions on the Public Involvement Process, please contact:

Veronica Lopez-Villaseñor
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
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vlopezvi@dtsc.ca.gov

Restoration Advisory Board Bus Tour – September 19, 2013

The second of two RAB tours this year is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2013. The tour will visit Sites OT017 and TU002, focusing on the performance of remediation systems operating at these sites, as well as plans for additional site investigations and cleanup activities.

The group will gather at the Barrevo parking lot on North Beale Road (just inside the Main Schneider Gate) at 3:45 p.m., on Thursday, September 19, 2013. The bus will leave promptly at 4:00 p.m. and will return at 6:00 p.m.

Pre-registration is required to enter the Base. Please contact Shandon Sands at (530) 788-9131 by September 10, 2013, to register for the tour.

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Restoration Advisory Board Meeting – November 21, 2013

You are cordially invited to attend the public RAB meetings. Meetings are held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the One Stop Center for Business and Workforce Development, Second Floor, 1114 Yuba Street, in Marysville. The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2013 (see the location map below).



Get Involved!

You can participate in or learn more about the ERP or MMRP at Beale AFB by attending evening RAB meetings, joining RAB bus tours of restoration sites, or signing up to receive the newsletter.

To be added to the mailing list or to be informed of RAB activities, please contact:

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For more information on the Beale AFB RAB's upcoming activities, please contact:

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2013 RAB Schedule		
January 17	February	March 21
April 18	May 16	June
July 18	August	September 19
October	November 21	December